

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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40

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 RSR-01 /102 W

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P R 280240 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 888

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7404

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR APRIL 27, 1973

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

CAN THO 0248

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, PINT, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR APRIL 27, 1973

1. SUMMARY: MR IV WAS RELATIVELY TRANQUIL APRIL 26, WITH MOST OF THE MILITARY ACTION OCCURRING AROUND KIEN THIEN DISTRICT TOWN IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE. AN ARVN REGIMENTAL COMMANDER CLAIMED HIS TROOPS WERE FULLY IN CONTROL OF THE LEFT BANK OF THE MEKONG NEAR THE CAMBODIAN BORDER. THE QUAN LONG ICCS TEAM OPENED AN INVESTIGATION IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE. END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION ( A) YESTERDAY' S MILITARY ACTION IN MR IV WAS RELATIVELY LIGHT. ONLY 30 INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED, COMPARED TO WEDNESDAY' S 35. THESE INCLUDED ONE GROUND ATTACK, 25 ATTACKS BY FIRE AND HARASSMENTS, AND FOUR ACTS OF TERRORISM.

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MOST OF THE INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN CHUONG THIEN. RVNAF REPORTEDLY

LOST ELEVEN KILLED AND 75 WOUNDED, AND CLAIMED 32 VC/NVA KILLED.  
(B) FIGHTING HAS TAPERED OFF IN THE HONG NGU AREA. THE COMMANDER OF THE ARVN 15 TH REGIMENT ASSERTED THAT HIS TROOPS ARE FULLY IN CONTROL OF THE LEFT BANK OF THE MEKONG UP TO THE CAMBODIAN BORDER. HE SAID PASSING SHIPS SHOULD BE SAFE FROM " DIRECT FIRE" IN THIS SECTOR, BUT HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE AGAINST " INDIRECT FIRE." HE WARNED THAT THE VC/ NVA ARE STILL PRESENT ABOUT THREE KILOMETERS AWAY FROM THE RIVERBANK FOR A STRETCH OF TWO TO THREE KILOMETERS NEAR THE BORDER.  
(C) MEANWHILE, HARRASSMENT CONTINUED NORTH OF HONG NGU DISTRICT TOWN.

FOUR ROCKETS FELL ON APRIL 24 AND THREE MORE ON APRIL 26, KILLING 12 AND WOUNDING 8. ELEMENTS OF THE 16 TH REGIMENT AND TROOP OF ARMORED CAVALRY FROM THE 15 TH REGIMENT ARE SWEEPING THE VIETNAMESE SIDE OF THE CAMBODIAN BORDER TO DISCOURAGE THE ROCKET ASSAULTS.  
(D) THE VC/ NVA CONTINUED TO LEISURELY PUNISH CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF CHAU DOC PROVINCE. FROM 23 TO 25 APRIL, 28 ROUNDS OF 122 MM ROCKET AND 82 MM MORTAR FIRE FELL ON ISOLATED OUTPOSTS AND ARTILLERY POSITIONS, KILLING TWO AND WOUNDING TWO. THE ATTACKS OCCURRED IN TAN CHAU, TRI TON, AND AN PHU DISTRICTS.

3. ICCS: THE QUAN LONG ICCS TEAM ON APRIL 26 UNDERTOOK ITS FIRST INVESTIGATION SINCE THE DOWNING OF THE NBBQ HELICOPTER AT DKDC  
KUK THE VC/ NVA ALLEGEDLY INITIATED AN ATTACK THE PREVIOUS EVENING UPON CAI TRAM HAMLET, VINH LOI DISTRICT, BAC LIEU PROVINCE. THE HAMLET CHIEF AND ONE PSDF WERE KILLED, AND FIVE PSDF ARE MISSING. BARNES UNQUOTE  
BUNKER

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
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